



Photo: Bryanna Flame, American Samoa

Ocean for Life 2013

Pre-Application Guidance for Western Students

BACKGROUND

The problems that face the ocean today cross national boundaries and require global solutions. Ocean for Life is an initiative to increase cultural understanding through ocean science. It is an integrated solution that brings together diverse high school students to better understand the global ocean, each other's cultures and societies, thereby building a strong foundation for tomorrow's global leaders. The program is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE Program, SCUBAnauts International and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, in collaboration with National Geographic Society and American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking.

High school students from Western countries will participate alongside high school students selected from GLOBE schools within the Near East North Africa region of the Greater Middle East. Together, this diverse group of students will learn more about the unique qualities of national marine sanctuaries and the importance of the ocean to our planet. Within the context of this immersive two-week field experience at a U.S. national marine sanctuary, the Ocean for Life program will foster cross-cultural learning, appreciation, and relationships through exploration of how the ocean affects and connects us all.

The Ocean for Life field studies consist of collaborative ocean research expeditions, exploration, scholastic achievement, and an all-encompassing sense of wonder, while also allowing students from different countries to connect through common experiences and forge cross-cultural bonds. We anticipate that the program will help participants gain a meaningful understanding of our global relationships, provide perspectives that will remain for a lifetime, and be a formative experience for our future leaders. Fostering a better understanding of the environment, each other, and how we are all connected by one global ocean, is an excellent method to establish and strengthen our cross-cultural relationships.

The goals of the Ocean for Life program are:

1. To bring together multi-national students in an immersive, hands-on program that allow them to explore, study, and gain new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
2. To provide intercultural background materials and training for all staff and participants.
3. To provide one-of-a-kind, ocean-based field experiences for multinational students to explore their connections to the environment and each other.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To foster the ability of student participants to raise awareness about their connection to the ocean, as well as encourage conservation and stewardship among their family, friends, classmates and local communities.
6. To foster the ability of student participants to increase public understanding at their school and in their local community about the culturally diverse students they meet during the field study.
7. To develop youth media projects that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
8. To foster a long-term collaborative education program including the classrooms and schools of all Western and Greater Middle Eastern participants.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply, each student must:

- be an incoming 9th-12th grade high school student in the 2013-2014 school year (ages 14-18);
- be able to swim;
- be proficient in the English language; and
- be willing to participate in future program aspects, such as evaluation surveys, etc.

Participant Benefits

Students will:

- participate in a two-week immersive field study in one of America's national marine sanctuaries;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and how their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- build relationships with peers from different countries and cultures, and gain a better understanding of their similarities and differences;
- be immersed in classroom, lab, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world and their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain a better understanding of the scientific process and a deeper understanding of marine sciences; and
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to document their field experience and develop youth media projects to share with schools and local communities.

Covered by the Ocean for Life Program

All students will receive:

- round-trip travel expenses;
- dorm-style accommodations and meals during the field study;
- educational resources and materials from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE Program, and National Geographic Society; and
- support for continuing education and post-field study endeavors.

Requirements of Participation

Students will be required to:

- attend all classroom, lab, and field sessions during the summer field study;
- participate in on-site and future assessments (e.g., surveys) of the Ocean for Life program;
- be mentors for future Ocean for Life participants;
- work with their teachers and schools to ensure implementation of their Ocean for Life Action Plan after the summer field study is complete;
- conduct at least two presentations related to key aspects of Ocean for Life to any of the following audiences after the summer field study is complete: classmates/school, community, or conference in their home country;
- submit an article to local newspaper and/or television station about the program and their personal experience; and
- respond to requests for information (e.g., summaries of recent activities related to program) from Ocean for Life coordinators in a timely manner.

HOW TO APPLY

Download and read a copy of the Ocean for Life Pre-Application Guidance for Western Students at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ofl/app.html>. Once you have read through this guidance document you will be prepared to complete the [online application](#).

PREPARATION

There will be no way to save your online application, so when you submit your application you must complete it in its entirety. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you start a new Word document for the following sections, so when you apply online you can simply cut and paste your completed essay into the online application.

Title I School

The application will ask you if your high school is a Title I school. If you do not know the answer to your questions, ask a teacher or staff member at your school before answering this question.

Extra-Curricular Activities

You will be asked to make a list of no more than five extra-curricular activities (e.g., environmental labs, debate, photography, yearbook, leadership, science, work) you participate in outside of classes and provide a brief description for each. Make sure to focus on extra-curricular activities that relate to the environment, ocean, science, leadership, photo and video work/interest and print/radio/web communications.

Essay Questions

With the Ocean for Life goals listed above in mind, you will need to respond to the following essay question below in the pre-application. Please do not exceed 500 words. 500 words is approximately 3/4 of a page single-spaced in Times New Roman font at 12-point size. Make sure to answer both parts of the essay question.

LONG ESSAY QUESTION: The Ocean for Life program does not end with the field study; you will be expected to share what you have learned. Describe how you will: 1) raise awareness about the ocean, as well as encourage conservation and stewardship among your family, friends, schoolmates and local community, and 2) increase public understanding at your school and in your local community about the new cultures you will learn about during the field study.

You will also be asked the following short essay question. Make sure to highlight your aspirations, including how the program would influence your education and/or career goals. Please do not exceed 200 words for this question. 200 words is approximately 1/3 of a page single-spaced in Times New Roman font at 12-point size.

SHORT ESSAY QUESTION: Explain why you want to participate in the Ocean for Life program.

OCEAN FOR LIFE 2013 ONLINE APPLICATION

Now that you have all of the information required for the Ocean for Life student application, you are ready to begin. Just a reminder that there will be no way to save your online application and return to it, so you must be prepared to submit your complete application before you start the online application process.

Once you have clicked on the “DONE” button at the end of the last screen, your online application will have been submitted. Do not expect a response after submitting your online application. You will NOT receive an automated email. Lastly, you are only allowed to apply once, so make sure all of your information is accurate before you click “DONE” and submit your final application.

Your online application for the 2013 Ocean for Life field study is due by January 18, 2013.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Claire Fackler, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Phone: (805) 963-3238 ext. 18
Fax: (805) 963-2438
Email: claire.fackler@noaa.gov

Deadline

January 18, 2013 — [Pre-application due online](#)

February 21, 2013 — Notification of students selected for second round

March 15, 2013 — Full application due

April 4, 2013 — Final selection of students announced